

FISCAL NOTE

SB 59

January 18, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Cable Equity Act* (CEA) of 2007. Defines terms of the CEA. Requires each television cable operator to provide customers the opportunity to purchase any channel available on cable programming service on a per-channel rate.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

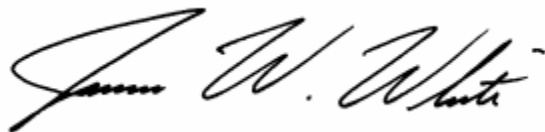
Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- “Basic Service” means the lowest level of cable service available to subscribers.
- “Per-channel or per-program service” means cable services that are provided as single-channel tiers by the cable operator, and individual programs for which the cable operator charges a separate rate.
- “Cable programming service” means all program channels on the cable system that are not included in the basic service, but are not separately offered as per-channel or per-program services.
- No customer of cable television services shall be charged for any channel on cable programming service that such customer does not wish to view unless such customer chooses to purchase cable programming services as a package or tier of services.
- According to the Comptroller of the Treasury, this bill does not violate any existing agreement or contract in any franchise agreement with any government entity.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director